



ACADEMY OF AMERICAN STUDIES



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COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Register for the SAT/ACT –

- **SAT Dates 2017/2018** – www.sat.collegeboard.org:
 - April 5 – School day exam. All Juniors!
 - May 6, registration deadline April 7
 - June 3, registration deadline May 9
 - August 26, registration deadline July 17
 - October 7, November 4, December 2, March 10 (No subject tests offered in March)
 - **FEES \$45** (\$57 with essay) subject tests \$26

Sending scores– You will have **4 FREE** score “sends” 9 days after the test date. Once that 9-day window passes, you will have to pay to send your score reports. You will have 4 free additional tests “sends” with using a fee waiver to use at any time.

- **ACT Dates for 2017** – www.act.org:
 - April 8, registration deadline March 4
 - June 10, registration deadline May 5
 - September 9 – registration deadline August 4
 - October 28 – registration deadline September 22
 - December 9 – registration deadline November 3
 - Fees \$42.50 (\$58.50 with essay)

Prepare for your SAT/ACT exams- Check the **College Office Website** for information and phone numbers for programs. Prepare on your own as well. Visit the following for online test prep:

- SAT – Collegeboard.com
- ACT - www.act.org
- Khanacademy.org, www.chegg.com
- www.princetonreview.com, www.kaplan.com, www.freerice.com

Fee Waivers – If you qualify for free or reduced lunch, you may get fee waivers for (2) SAT's, (2) subject tests (SAT II), (2)ACT Exams, (4) score report sending and (8) CSS Profile reports. You may also get fee waivers for some college application fees. You **MUST** complete your lunch form at the start of the year to be eligible.

TOEFL Exam – If you were not born in this country and have difficulty with English, you may be required by some colleges to take the TOEFL exam to demonstrate your English proficiency as it relates to college readiness. Check www.ets.org/toefl for more information and see Ms. Drescher.

Pupilpath– Create an account as soon as possible if you are not already signed. See Mr. Randle or Ms. Drescher for your account information.

Explore Colleges- Research good fit colleges and their requirements by utilizing online resources such as:

- www.collegeboard.com, www.chegg.com
- www.fiskeguide.com
- www.nyccollegeline.org
- www.petersons.com, www.usnews.com
- www.campustours.com
- www.collegeweeklive.com (virtual tours, chat with colleges)

Barnes and Noble and the Library will also have books that can help guide you as well. By late spring and early summer, you will have your SAT/ACT scores. Compare your scores with the published averages of a particular college. Continue to create a **balanced list of schools** that include **REACH SCHOOLS** – highly competitive schools which generally accept students with GPA's and SAT scores slightly above your own. **TARGET SCHOOLS** – Schools which generally accept scores comparable to your own. **SAFE SCHOOLS** – Schools at which your chance of being accepted is GOOD and at which your application will MOST LIKELY be accepted.

Applications – **All applications are completed online.** There are basically **TWO** ways to apply, directly through the website of each school **OR** with the Common Application.

Common Application (www.commonapp.org) entails completing ONE application to apply to multiple schools. This may be the best way to apply if you are applying to multiple schools. Many colleges accept the common app. Visit the www.commonapp.org to see which schools use it. Familiarize yourself with the Common App. **It goes live on August 1st. BEGIN IT IN AUGUST!!!**

SUNY Schools **accept** the Common App. CUNY schools **do not** accept the Common App.

Visit college websites for deadline and application requirements.

- CUNY – visit www.cuny.edu/apply. View individual campuses and programs. Apply through the **SEEK** program if your GPA and SAT scores fall below the averages on the CUNY profile received during advisement.
- SUNY – visit www.suny.edu to view individual campuses and programs. Apply through **EOP** if your GPA and SAT scores fall below the SUNY profile received during advisement.
- Private Schools – Visit their websites to view campus and program information. Apply through the **HEOP** Program if your GPA and SAT scores fall below the published averages.

Early Action/Early Decision (EA/ED) – EA is **non-binding**, ED is **binding**.

Application Deadlines - **November 1st**. All EA/ED applications are completed with Ms. Drescher. Make an appointment by **mid October** to ensure that deadlines are met.

Letters of Recommendation – Most schools require letters of recommendation (explore admission requirements for your schools). Schools will not ask for more than one or two teacher recommendations so you need not ask all of your teachers for a letter. Recommendation request forms can be obtained at school and should be submitted to your teacher in person. Teachers and counselors work very hard on these letters. Please acknowledge their hard work on your behalf by **thanking them**. Request your letters early. There is a two-to-three week turn around time to get them back.

Essays – Most schools will require that you write an essay or personal statement. This is your opportunity to 'talk' to the admissions committees. Use this opportunity to show them your writing skills, as well as, enable them learn a little more about you. Research the requirements of your selected schools to learn more. You may choose to have your English Teacher look over your essay. Visit: http://collegeboard.com/student/apply/essay_for_help_and_Commonapp.org for prompts. Begin the process this semester and continue through early fall.

Resume – create a resume that summarizes your achievements as well as work history, extracurricular, volunteer activities. View the following template sample: <http://jobsearch.about.com/library/samples/blhsresume.htm>

Financial Aid – The FAFSA (**Free** Application For Student Aid) will be available October 1, 2017. This is FREE, do not pay for the filing of your FAFSA. Parent tax returns will need to be completed in order for the FAFSA to be officially submitted, but you may begin it earlier and then edit it when your parents' taxes are done. Parents are encouraged to complete taxes as early in the year as possible. You may begin the FAFSA early by using the FAFSA Forecaster. For additional help visit:

- FAFSA - www.fafsa.gov (only use .gov **not** .com)
- CSS Profile – www.collegeboard.com (some colleges require)

- Federal and State – www.hesc.com
- Financial Aid Counselors – www.finaid.org
- Loan Information – www.salliemae.com
- Fafsa Forecaster <https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm?execution=e1s1>

Scholarships – Create a profile. Have appropriate scholarships sent to you.

- www.fastweb.com, www.chegg.com,
- www.scholarships.com www.collegeboard.com

Career Exploration –

Occupational Outlook Handbook	www.bls.gov/oco
New York Career Zone	www.nycareerzone.org
Career Browser	www.collegeboard.com
Career Descriptions	www.careerexplorer.net
Careers and Industries	www.wetfeet.com
Job Profiles	www.jobprofiles.org
Occupational Profiles	www.vault.com

Junior year is EXTREMELY important! Senior year is also an important year. Report card grades, mid-year grades and end-year grades will be sent to colleges so you must maintain good grades **ALL YEAR** and continue with a full senior course load.

Good luck with your exploration. Keep in mind that all college related questions can be directed to the College Advisor, Ms. Drescher, room 357N or sdresch@schools.nyc.gov.